2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) in Rural Areas:

The minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) **In Urban Areas:**

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be selft supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circle have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Non payment of amount by Lucknow Post Office

†2503. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accurate and necessary information and whole amount of interest on the amount deposited is not being given by post office saving bank at G.P.O. Lucknow (U.P.) and customers are being harassed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any complaints have been received from the public and MPs in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on the same and the concrete steps taken or being taken for solving this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) One deceased claim case received from Hon'ble Member of Parliament. Shri Bhagwati Singh has already been sanctioned in favour of the complaint. Shri Rakesh Kumar Srivastava on the basis of the succession certificate and the amount held in the Savings Bank Account alongwith the interest admissible on maximum prescribed limit of Rs. 50,000/* prior to 28.2.2000 and Rs. 1 lakh with effect from 28.2.2000 has been remitted to the complainant by Cheque dated 23.12.2004 for Rs. 2,14,541.05. The cheque was delivered on 24.12.2004.

Infrastructure development in Gurgaon

2504. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION SAND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the city of Gurgaon in Haryana has been declared ahead of other cities in Information Technology and infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will provide jobs to the educated youth and the procedure adopted for giving employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.